

allocation be used to make grants to communities for planning and predevelopment costs. In addition, the bill allows non-profit corporations to be eligible for SRF funding, as they currently are under USDA's Rural Utility Service's water and waste disposal program. Finally, the bill authorizes \$15 million for rural water organizations technical assistance programs. This provision will allow organizations like the Rural Water Association and the Rural Community Assistance Program to provide hands-on, in-the-field, technical assistance to rural communities, thus, assisting these communities in making the most efficient use of scarce resources.

As reauthorization of the Clean Water Act is deliberated this year, I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to ensure that rural and disadvantaged communities are not left behind.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Rural Community Wastewater Treatment Affordability Act and join me in assisting our nation's rural communities.

A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to first restore, and then to increase, the income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by those who are self-employed, at a rate of 25 percent for 1994, and 80 percent for 1995 and thereafter.

Fully one-quarter of self-employed Americans—3.1 million farmers and craftsmen, professionals and small business proprietors—have no health insurance. Compared to all other workers, the self-employed are one and a half times more likely to lack essential health care coverage.

As we search for methods to increase access to necessary medical services and reduce the crushing burdens of uncompensated care, which threaten the fiscal stability of both affected individuals and the entire health care system, there can be no doubt that U.S. tax code should encourage the self-employed to purchase health care insurance. Instead, current regulations discriminate against the self-employed and discourage the individual initiative that has always been a bedrock of the American economy.

As part of the expense of employee compensation, businesses can deduct the full cost of any health insurance provided to employees. Similar treatment of health care premium costs has never been fully available to the self-employed. And, unless we act quickly, the loss of the limited deduction in effect during recent tax years will soon be keenly felt by the self-employed. In order to provide consistent tax treatment of medical insurance expenses, my bill restores for 1994 the 25 percent deduction that has enjoyed nearly a decade of strong bipartisan support.

The availability of this deduction should not only be renewed, it should be adjusted equitably. Because businesses, on average, contribute—and fully deduct as an expense—80 percent of the total cost of employee health in-

surance premiums, my bill increases the percentage of premium costs which can be deducted by self-employed persons to 80 percent, effective with tax year 1995. This is similar to the provision thoughtfully considered and passed by the Ways and Means Committee of the 103rd Congress.

With approximately 41 million medically uninsured persons in the United States currently, measures which encourage working people to provide for their health care coverage within the private sector are essential. The particular form of an individual's employment situation should not determine the tax treatment of health care costs incurred as part of the cost of doing business. Rather, as nearly as possible, parity of deductibility should be obtained within the tax code.

In the interests of both fairness and sound health care policy, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 691.

IN HONOR OF HUGO H. LANGE

HON. FRANK TEJEDA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. TEJEDA. Mr. Speaker, seventy-eight years ago a 28 year old farmer from Floresville, Texas responded to the Nation's call for service during World War I. Corporal Hugo H. Lange joined Company H, 328th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Infantry Division of the Army during the Saint Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives in France. Corporal Lange's actions during the Meuse-Argonne offensive earned him a Silver Star, the Nation's third highest decoration for battlefield heroism, and a promotion to Sergeant.

Hugo Lange's citation reads, "For Gallantry in Action: Sergeant then Corporal Hugo H. Lange, Company H, 328th Infantry, distinguished himself during the severe fighting west of Chatel Chehery, France on 8 October 1918. Finding himself detached from his platoon, rallied and reorganized the men he could find, amounting to half a platoon, and successfully led them forward, this being the first detachment to reach the battalion objective. His aggressiveness, bravery and leadership through out the Argonne offensive contributed much to the success of his company."

After Lange's death in 1935, his daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Braden, discovered that the Army had never given her father the Medals of Valor. Through Mrs. Braden's efforts, the Army has decided to honor Hugo Lange's heroism with a ceremony today at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. Lt. Gen. Marc Cisneros, Commanding General of Fifth US Army and Fort Sam Houston, will present the Silver Star Medal and the World War I victory medal—with three campaign clasps—to one of Hugo Lange's sons, Mr. Victor Lange, and to Mrs. Braden.

I commend the family of Hugo Lange for their efforts to enhance and preserve their family history. Fewer and fewer of today's youth have firsthand experience of military service. In addition, we are losing more and more of our World War I and World War II veterans. Their history, and the stories of their struggles, need to be preserved and passed on to all future generations.

A MATTER OF CHARACTER: THE VIEW FROM THE IRON RANGE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 26, 1995

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on January 4 the House of Representatives welcomed its new majority. The event marked a political sea-change in the leadership of the House.

I would like to submit to you an editorial that ran in my hometown newspaper, the Chisholm, MN, Free Press, circulation 3,100. Its publisher, Veda Ponikvar, holds the distinction of being the first woman newspaper publisher in the State of Minnesota. I have known Veda all my life, and have always respected her insight, her wisdom and her articulate advocacy of the values we share as Minnesotans, and Americans.

I commend to you, my colleagues, a view of Washington from Minnesota's Iron Range.

[From the Free Press, Jan. 10, 1995]

CHARACTER IS MORAL ORDER

The great hope of any society is individual character. One must look into people as well as at them for Character is the diamond that scratches every other stone.

Character is moral order seen through the medium of an individual nature. In Character there is also unselfish leadership with the stamp on our souls of the free choice of good or evil we have made through life. Therefore, Character, like porcelain ware, must be printed before it is glazed. There can be no change after it is burned in.

A SHINING, SPOTLESS EXAMPLE

The noblest contribution which any man or woman can make for the benefit of posterity is that of a good character. The richest bequest of posterity is that of a good character. The richest bequest which any man or woman can leave to the youth of their native land is that of a shining, spotless example.

We have in the Congress of the United States a man in the personality of Newt Gingrich, who for over a decade has lived off of the American taxpayer. For the services rendered, he also has enjoyed a host of perks, including a very lucrative and all-inclusive health plan. He did little to institute some sort of national health bill that would lessen the burdens and worries of the electorate. He now is the Speaker of the House, a position that most men earn by integrity, selfless dedication, and humility.

What a sick, ugly example he has set for the Youth of this nation with his despicable assessment of The First Lady, Hillary Clinton. In public as well as in private, those elected to office and entrusted with the responsibilities of governing our nation, need to watch their language; be gentlemen and gentle ladies at all times; and give to the nation a luster of excellence and propriety.

That Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Gingrich are poles apart politically has nothing to do with proper manners and the decency to respect the highest office in the land. Mrs. Clinton is no neophyte in the area of governance. She is an accomplished attorney; has a brilliant mind, and above all, a desire to make life a little easier for the poor, the sick, the aged, and the impoverished. The nation didn't see one Newt Gingrich serving the homeless during the Thanksgiving Holiday. But Mrs. Clinton was there, serving those less fortunate. She deserves an A for effort on many fronts. We cannot say the same for Mr. Gingrich.